

REMARKS

Claims 4-6 are pending.

Claims 4-6 were rejected under 35 USC 102(e) as being anticipated by Demiray, U.S. Patent 5,740,157. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 4 recites that each interface module is in an active state. Claim 6 recites a similar feature. Furthermore, given the occurrence of line errors in the interface modules, a line selection between the working line or protection line is carried out via the selectors by means of a changeover. Because all interface modules are active, it is not necessary to activate a standby module and only a quasi-changeover is needed (see specification pg. 6, line 30 to pg. 7, line 5). On the other hand, Demiray discloses that an automatic protection switching algorithm is continuously monitored to determine whether the A or B module shall be selected to carry the active copy of the information traffic (see col. 3, lines 1-8). Thus, Demiray does not disclose a system in which each interface module is in the active state, as claimed. Accordingly, the features of claims 4 and 6 are not disclosed or suggested by Demiray. Claim 5 is allowable at least due to its dependency from claim 4.

In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the outstanding rejection of the claims and to pass this application to issue. If it is determined that a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number given below.

In the event the U.S. Patent and Trademark office determines that an extension and/or other relief is required, applicants petition for any required relief including extensions of time and authorize the Commissioner to charge the cost of such petitions and/or other fees due in connection with the filing of this document to Deposit Account No. 03-1952 referencing docket no. 449122032700.

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Respectfully submitted,

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